



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME: 2 ISSUE: 1

DATE: APRIL 2012

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES United States Consulate General. Chennai, India

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Call: (+91-44) 2857-4000



From American Citizen Services Chief Leon Gendin



We are pleased to announce the renewal of monthly visits to Bangalore for passport and other services. We know demand is great. Please register with [STEP](#) to ensure you receive regular updates about our upcoming dates in Bangalore. Learn more about Bangalore outreach at: [Bangalore Outreach](#) and [Virtual Bangalore site](#).

Appointments and Services

To make an appointment for passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, and document and notarial services, please visit our website:

chennai.usconsulate.gov

If you arrive at the consulate for a non-emergency service, you will be asked to return after securing an appointment. Thank you for your cooperation with this policy.

American Citizen Service Hours:

Monday through Friday, excluding holidays

9:00am to 12:30pm (appointments)

Emergency Services:

We can assist when a U.S. citizen in India is arrested, missing, is a victim of violent crime, becomes ill or dies, or when there is otherwise a need for immediate help.

- 24-hour duty officer for emergencies involving American citizens: call **(+91-44) 2857-4000**
- Updates about crisis situations
- Information on local resources

General information regarding Indian visa and immigration rules, including the addresses and telephone numbers for the FRRO offices, can be found at the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs website for its Bureau of Immigration at <http://www.immigrationindia.nic.in>.

Consulate News

Appointments can be made to:

- Add visa pages to undamaged, valid U.S. passport
- Passport services other than adding pages
- Report the birth abroad of a child of a U.S. citizen and/or apply for the child's first passport, Report of Birth and Social Security Number
- Request notarial and other services not listed above

Visas for Indian Citizens

If you need a visa to travel to the United States, please visit the [consulate website](#) for application, fee and appointment information. Please note: some categories of visa application and processing [fees are increasing effective April 13](#). For example, a tourist visa application fee will rise from \$140 to \$160.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Keep us updated on your whereabouts in India. STEP will ensure we can reach you in the event of an emergency and when we have news to share – such as the next time we will be in Bangalore. It's free. Please visit and enroll with your email address at [travel.state.gov](#)

Other Consular Services

Medical Information: Find key information about medical care in India, and the Consulate's doctors' list. [More Information](#)

Marriage: Procedures for American Citizens getting married in India. [More Information](#)

Notary and Document Services: Many documents require authentication or acknowledgment. Appointments are required. [More Information](#)

Social Security: Help for those collecting Social Security from outside the U.S. [More Information](#)

Judicial Assistance: Key information about how the Consulate can and cannot help citizens. Also, a list of attorneys. [More Information](#)

Voter Registration: How to vote from outside the United States. [More Information](#)

Selective Service: If you're a male over 18, Uncle Sam needs you to register for the draft. [More Information](#)

IRS: Help with filing income tax overseas. [More Information](#)

We Need Your Help -- Volunteer as a Warden!

The warden program is a system for maintaining communications with the American community and disseminating information to it in times of increased threat or actual emergency. If you live in Chennai's consular district and want to help, please email us at chennaics@state.gov. Districts where we especially need wardens:

KERALA

Alapuzha
Idukki
Kollam
Kozhikode
Thrissur

KARNATAKA

Benson Town
Chamrajpet
Chandralayout
Malleswaram
Museum Road
Anand Nagar
Nandhinilayout
Electronic City
HSR layout
Bangalore Rural
Davanagere
Gulbarga
Hassan
Kolar

PONDICHERRY

TAMIL NADU (Chennai)

Nungambakkam
Ambathur
Parktown
Perambur
Redhills
Washermanpet
Chrompet
Perungudi
Kodambakkam
Padi
Porur

(Outside Chennai)

Cuddalore
Kanchipuram
Kanyakumari
Nagapatinam
Nilgiris
Pudukottai
Salem
Thanjavur
Thiruvarur
Tirunelveli
Tirupur
Tiruvannamalai
Trichy
Vellore
Villupuram



NEWSLETTER YOUTH SECTION

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

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Earth Day is April 22

Earth Day was established on April 22, 1970 as the beginning of the modern environmental movement. It came at a time when Americans were pumping fully-leaded gasoline into their cars, air pollution was rampant, and industries were not governed by strict regulations.

The day was founded by then-U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of the state of Wisconsin, after a massive oil spill in California. Nelson was inspired by the energy of students' anti-Vietnam War protests and thought that kind of enthusiasm could be channeled toward environmental issues.

Nelson organized a "national teach-in" on the environment and on April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans participated in rallies across the United States in the name of a healthy, safe environment.

Earth Day is celebrated every year with tree plantings, recycling programs, rallies and other activities.



Tamil actor and UN Habitat Youth Envoy Vikram and U.S. Consulate celebrate Earth Day 2011

Commit to five acts to preserve the environment each day. Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Earth Day page for ideas: epa.gov/earthday

John Carter – American hero?



The new Disney movie "John Carter" is based on the classic novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs' A Princess of Mars. Burroughs was known for writing the Tarzan series. A Princess of Mars was his first novel to feature hero, John Carter. It first appeared in 1912 as a series of monthly installments in a magazine called The All Story under the title Under the Moons of Mars. The stories were later collected in a book. Carter is a former Civil War Confederate Army captain mysteriously transported to Mars!

A Princess of Mars is the featured book on the Library of Congress website: <http://www.read.gov/kids/>

Check out the Library of Congress [website](#) for recommendations on children's books on topics ranging from U.S. Presidents to Sports to American Inventors to National Parks and maps. And look for online games in the [Storybook Adventure](#) section.



NEWSLETTER YOUTH SECTION

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Historical Documents...

Declaration of Independence

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness -- That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Read [more](#)...



WORD SEARCH

Can you find the signers of Declaration of Independence?

W	F	O	C	K	S	A	B	K	E	F	L	M	D	G
J	H	D	O	M	O	R	R	I	S	B	R	T	E	A
E	J	A	I	D	Z	K	A	U	N	E	L	S	O	N
F	O	T	T	B	P	L	X	F	S	N	F	L	C	Q
F	H	L	E	H	W	Y	T	H	E	H	E	J	W	I
E	W	M	E	A	I	R	O	G	T	L	U	P	S	T
R	A	W	L	H	L	E	N	I	L	K	N	A	R	F
S	E	T	H	I	L	L	U	K	Q	P	X	I	E	P
O	O	S	P	W	I	L	P	R	M	L	K	N	P	W
N	I	M	O	L	A	E	S	A	S	T	L	E	O	D
P	R	A	O	C	M	W	F	L	B	D	G	A	O	B
Y	A	D	X	N	S	I	K	C	O	C	N	A	H	U
K	H	A	R	R	I	S	O	N	X	L	P	W	F	S

BRAXTON
HARRISON
JEFFERSON
NELSON
WYTHE
LEE
FRANKLIN
LEWIS

HALL
WALTON
HOOPER
HEWES
PENN
HANCOCK
MORRIS

RUSH
SMITH
ADAMS
WILLIAMS
ELLERY
PAINE
CLARK

...and Great Speeches....

To read more historic U.S. documents and speeches, such as the U.S. Constitution visit the Primary Documents in American History section of the Library of Congress' website [here](#).



NEWSLETTER

2012 U.S. ELECTIONS



FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL

American author Louis L'Amour once said, "To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers." As 2012 is a U.S. presidential election year, there is no better time than now to follow that advice. Exercising the right to vote is one of our most fundamental ideals. Accordingly, I would like to encourage all Americans – no matter where they call home – to participate in this year's elections. We, here at the U.S. Consulate Chennai, are ready to assist any American who is traveling or residing in south India in registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot. As a first step, I encourage you to visit either the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website (www.fvap.gov) or the U.S. Consulate Chennai's website (<http://chennai.usconsulate.gov>). I am happy to report that voting absentee is easier than ever – with laws now in force in nearly every U.S. state that simplify the process of receiving and casting ballots as well as ensuring that they are counted. This is your chance to put democracy to work, so please register to vote right away.



QUESTIONS?

Contact us at
votechennai@state.gov

2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Important Dates:

Aug 27-30	Republican Convention in Tampa, FL
Sep 3-5	Democratic Convention in Charlotte, NC
Oct 3	Presidential Debate in Denver, CO
Oct 11	Vice Presidential Debate in Danville, KY
Oct 16	Presidential Debate in Hempstead, NY
Oct 22	Presidential Debate in Boca Raton, FL
Nov 6	Election Day
Jan 20, 2013	Inauguration Day

REGISTERING TO VOTE

If you are a U.S. citizen 18 years or older and currently residing outside the U.S., you may:
REGISTER TO VOTE and/or REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Steps You Can Take Today:

- Obtain a *Federal Post Card Application* (FPCA) from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate – including U.S. Consulate Chennai – or request directly from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (www.fvap.gov).
- Complete the FPCA, sign, date and submit it to your local election official. You can do this by mailing it from any U.S. post office, U.S. embassy or consulate.
- Note that your local election official will handle the processing and distribution of your absentee ballot. Make sure to provide a current email address and phone number on the FPCA in case they need to contact you.